

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A ceramic filter element for cleaning water, the element comprising:

a housing, said housing defining a water inlet, a water outlet, and a cleaning outlet;  
a tubular body disposed within said housing, said tubular body having at least one wall and at least one through opening extending along an entire length of said tubular body, said at least one wall structured and dimensioned as at least one of a functional layer and as a carrier having a functional coating, said tubular body having an open first end communicating with said inlet and an open second end; and  
a closure member, sealing said cleaning outlet and closing said open second end of said tubular body, wherein water to be filtered flows under pressure from an outer surface into said through opening or from an inner surface of said through opening to an outer surface of the filter element, wherein the ceramic filter element is formed from a coarse-pored ceramic carrier and a fine-pored functional ceramic coating.

11. (previously presented) The ceramic filter element of claim 10, wherein the ceramic filter element is implemented as a rod-shaped element which is circular in cross-section, having multiple through openings.

12. (currently amended) The ceramic filter element of claim 10, wherein the ceramic filter element ~~is produced, via a sintering process~~comprises a sintered ceramic, from chemical of chemical compounds selected from the group consisting of chalcogenides, oxides, sulfides, carbides, and nitrides.
13. (previously presented) The ceramic filter element of claim 10, wherein said tubular body of the ceramic filter element is enclosed by an activated carbon filter element.
14. (currently amended) The ceramic filter element of claim 10, wherein the ceramic filter element has a mouthpiece through which filtered water can be drawn by a user, wherein the ceramic filter thereby constitutes a filtering drinking straw.
15. (previously presented) The ceramic filter element of claim 10, wherein said housing is formed in multiple parts from a housing cover and a housing body, wherein individual housing parts are removably connected to each another in a liquid-tight manner.
16. (currently amended) The ceramic filter element of claim 15, further ~~comprising attachments or quick-acting closures cooperating with~~wherein said housing cover and/or said housing body is structured for coupling to fittings or hoses.
17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The ceramic filter element of claim 10,  
wherein the ceramic filter element is coated and/or treated with a  
biocidal material and/or a material containing silver ions.